5: Jochelson A-5 (1910-11) 1928 Kamchadal

175 669 R. 177.66 sheretsk, and everywhere the Russians were slain. It so happened, however, that the *Gabriel* unexpectedly returned on account of an impending storm, not being prepared for a sea-voyage; and besides the crew were not eager to go to Anadyr. The sudden return of the *Gabriel* saved the Russians of the Peninsula. With the assistance of the sailors, Verkhne-Kamchatsk and Bolsheretsk were successfully held; Nishne-Kamchatsk was recaptured and the revolt was suppressed.

When the news of the revolt and its suppression reached Yakutsk the Administration resolved to send a commission to Kamchatka to investigate the cause of the uprising and the revolts of the Cossacks against their chiefs. At the head of the commission were Majors Mekhlin and Pavlutzky, former lieutenants of Shestakoff. The investigation lasted from 1733 to 1739. Sentences of death were passed by the commissioners on several Kamchadal chiefs and other instigators of the uprising, as well as on Cossacks convicted of criminal actions. Among the Russians executed was the Cossack officer Stinnikov, who in 1729 ordered the killing of the Japanese and robbed their ship, which was carried by the winds to the southern shores of Kamchatka.

SOME MENTAL TRAITS OF THE OLD KAMCHADAL

157 761 The old Kamchadal were proud, independent, inclined to wrath; their passions were easily aroused; they took offense readily and tried to avenge themselves by any possible means. They had no fear of death and could not be frightened. In order to demonstrate the psychology of the old Kamchadal some historical instances are cited of the relations between the Russians and Kamchadal before the final pacification of the latter.

651 669 R. 177.65 In the winter of 1712 the Chief Antziferoff with 25 Cossacks endeavored to collect tribute from the Avacha Kamchadal near where the fortress of Petropavlovsk was subsequently established. The Avacha Kamchadal were informed of the imminent arrival of the collectors. They built a solid blockhouse on posts with secretly lifting doors.[1] The Russians were met with simulated pleasure. Amidst mutual professions of friendship the transactions began, the Kamchadal readily surrendering a number of their principal men as hostages for their good behavior. At night they retired with the Cossacks to the pile-dwelling for sleep. But the natives planned to burn the building in the night and with it all the inmates. Their own men, however, were to escape through a secret passageway. But after the pile-dwelling was fired, they learned to their horror that their hostages had been chained by the Cossacks so that escape was impossible. The hostages, however, pleaded with their kinsmen outside to let the holocaust go on if, by perishing themselves, they could secure the destruction of the enemy, and so all in the building perished together.

669 761 Among the Kamchadal leaders of the revolt was the chief of Yelovka River, a tributary of the Kamchatka River, Tighil by name. When Nishne-Kamchatsk

[1] The old Kamchadal usually used such dwellings on platforms raised on piles as summer houses and also as storehouses.

5: Jochelson A-5 (1910-11) 1928 Kamchadal

669 761

was taken by the Russians, Tighil escaped to his fortified settlement in the mountains of Yelovka. Being pursued and overtaken by the Russians, he slaughtered his wives, children, kinsmen and dogs and killed himself.

One of the chiefs, sentenced to death as an instigator of the uprising, laughingly complained before the execution that he had the ill-luck to be hanged the last.

157 177 181

The present Kamchadal, however, have completely changed their psychology. They have a pitiful and humble appearance, and carry out each and every order of the Cossacks and the Russians in general. Evidently the process of Russianization, combined with two centuries of oppression by the Russian authorities, has brought about this change in the primitive character of the Kamchadal. This change, however, did not take place suddenly, but the tense energy of the people displayed in the general uprising was broken, never to recover. They became pacified.

THE YASSAK OR FUR TRIBUTE

651 R. 1772.65

The Kamchadal rebellions were chiefly caused by the extortionate demands made by the Cossacks and officials for furs and services for themselves. According to Krasheninnikoff[1] the Empress Elizabeth, after the general rebellion was crushed, issued an order limiting the yassak to one skin to a hunter of what ever animal he could bring; other historians of Siberia state it differently. The main factor attracting the Russians to Siberia in the early period of settlement was its wealth in furs. For one time furs were an important financial item in the budget of the Russian Empire; in the beginning of the seventeenth century the Treasury monopolized the fur trade. Czar Boris Godunoff decreed that the hunters and fur-traders deposit their merchandise in the Treasury for a fixed remuneration. The accumulated furs were placed in the care of a special department in Moscow, which disposed of them through its agents in Turkey, Persia, Bokhara and later in China. China in time became the largest and most profitable consumer of Siberian furs, for in exchange for its furs the Treasury would import from China gold and silver with which the Moscowite Empire paid for its wars. The China trade continued to be a Government monopoly until 1762. In that year Empress Catherine II abolished the official caravans to Peking, leaving the trade, which was still based chiefly on furs, in the hands of private merchants. The free fur trade had a stimulating effect on the development of commercial relations between Siberia, European Russia and the neighboring countries. The Treasury on the other hand no longer insisted that the tribute of Siberia be paid in furs exclusively. They were now free to pay their tribute in money, the amount being approximately estimated according to the value of the furs. Thus the field for official abuses was reduced, and the attitude of the natives toward the Russians began to improve.

Attempts to subject the Kamchadal coincides with the period of the Government monopoly in furs, when fur tribute was the cause for which thousands of men were tortured and killed whenever they refused or were not able to satisfy the rapaciousness of the foreign invaders. The situation of the Kamchadal was

[1] Krasheninnikoff, part II, p. 387.

7:Lesseps T-3 (1787-88)1790 Kamchadal

761 poſed the man is not always the conqueror;
224 but this does not prevent the inhabitants of this country from daily expoſing their lives; the frequent examples of the death of their countrymen has no effect upon them: indeed they never go out, without conſidering before hand that it is either to conquer or to die; and this ſevere alternative neither ſtops nor terrifies them*.

224 They hunt other animals nearly in the ſame manner, ſuch as rein deer, argali, or wild ſheep, called in Ruſſia *diki-barani*,

* They hunt the bear in this manner in every ſeaſon of the year, except when the country is covered with ſnow; their method is then different. It is known that in winter the bear retreats to the den which he has fabricated during ſummer of the branches of trees; he continues there while the froſt laſts, either aſleep, or licking his paws. The Kamtſchadales purſue him in their ſledges, and attack him with their dogs, who oblige him to defend himſelf: he ruſhes from his lurking place to certain death; if he refuſe to come out, his fate is equally certain, and he is cruſhed to death under the ruins of his den.

foxes,